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6 April 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

1. Had an off-the-cuff chat with [REDACTED] from Edwards today and he was most anxious to state his willingness as well as [REDACTED] to renew contracts at the end of this year, even if it meant resigning their regular commissions from the Air Force. We explained to him that they would be out of the Air Force well over three years at the end of their present contracts and that to date, out-of-service for such a duration had been frowned upon.

2. We commented that we have as yet to get top side views regarding the forthcoming pilot contracts and for certain we did not know whether or not they would tolerate any resignations from the Air Force and employment by the Agency. For this may be a subterfuge of previous CIA/Air Force agreements. [REDACTED] was quite emphatic in stating that as far as the out-of-service policy is concerned he felt that the drivers were more combat ready in their present assignments than if they were returned to the Air Force.

3. Personally, he pointed out that the program is now entering an interesting phase with the development of a new engine and that it would be hard among other reasons to leave at this time. He stated his availability and willingness to engage in flareup operations [REDACTED] From a practical point of view he stated that the cost and time involved in recruiting and training new talent would cause the outfit to meet undue expense.

4. Throughout the conversation it was quite evident that the indefinite status of the new contracts is beginning to cause uneasiness.

Distribution

1 - [REDACTED]
2 & 3 - [REDACTED]
4 - RHP

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